

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

As a Kindergarten teacher for the past 25 years, I know the importance of play in a child's life. With the push for more academics in Kindergarten, and time with paper/pencil activities, students are suffering. Their confidence and love of learning has diminished and students are showing more signs of stress than ever before.

We must find a way to incorporate play based learning into the curriculum - allowing the students to learn in a more developmentally appropriate way.

In the same regard, changing the Kindergarten start age would help parents in not needing to decide if they are doing a detriment to their child by sending them as a 4 year old. It levels the playing field for our youngest learners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

